
Unit 10

Course Summary

Congratulations! You have completed all the **Check Your Knowledge** sections and each of the units for IS-292, *Disaster Basics*.

This last unit highlights the key concepts and information presented in the course. When you have finished this review, you'll be ready to take the final test and receive credit for the course.

Start by looking again at the course objectives.

- List three significant dates in the development of disaster assistance since 1950.
- Describe the purpose and function of the Stafford Act.
- Describe the roles of the local, Tribal, State, and Federal governments in responding to a declared incident.
- List the steps in the declaration process.
- Give three examples of assistance available for non-declared incidents.
- Explain the relationship between the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the National Response Plan (NRP), and the Incident Command System (ICS).
- List three features of ICS.
- Explain the role and structure of the Command Staff.
- Explain the role and structure of the General Staff.
- Explain the purpose and the components of the Incident Action Plan.
- List the key functions of the Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration Sections.
- State the purpose of the Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation programs.

If you feel you cannot meet these objectives, take some time and re-read the appropriate sections of the course.

Conclusion

Disaster assistance programs have evolved continually since 1950. One of the key points in this evolution was the establishment of FEMA and its authority for managing disaster recovery. The Stafford Act, passed in 1988, provided for continued disaster relief and included Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and Mitigation. It established cost sharing for the Public Assistance Program.

When an incident occurs, the local, Tribal, State, and Federal governments have specific roles and responsibilities. The local government is the first line of defense and, if needed, works in concert with the State. When the resources of these two are exhausted, a request may be made for Federal assistance.

If the incident receives a Presidential Declaration, a variety of services and grants are available to the impacted area. Numerous emergency teams are activated in response to the incident and various Emergency Support Functions are tasked. Certain work is accomplished through the use of Mission Assignment, a process which utilizes a variety of Federal agencies to accomplish specific tasks. In the event an incident does not receive a declaration, some types of aid are still available such as fire suppression assistance and emergency conservation programs.



When FEMA and other Federal agencies respond to an incident, they are guided by three key sources:

- The **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**.
- The **National Response Plan (NRP)**.
- The **Incident Command System (ICS)**.



The use of these sources ensures a consistent approach and an efficient response to an incident. Together they provide the standards, processes, procedures, and structure to be used by all DHS agencies. NIMS, the NRP, and ICS provide the direction that allows multiple agencies to work together harmoniously and to achieve maximum effectiveness.

Under the ICS structure, the Command and General Staffs work as a team to achieve the incident objectives set forth in the Incident Action Plan (IAP). The Command Staff is headed by the FCO. General Staff sections are headed by section chiefs. Together they make resource and strategic decisions based on the objectives to be met. Span of control and unity of command are an integral part of ICS.



The four sections of the General Staff are Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration. Each has prescribed responsibilities. Each has well-defined supervisory positions and sub-structures which can be used depending on the size of the incident. This helps maintain accountability on all levels which is another integral part of ICS.

As you can tell, having completed the course content for IS-292, providing disaster assistance calls for significant planning. It also requires clarity of roles and responsibilities, teamwork, and commitment to common objectives. If these elements are in place, maximum results are achieved.

